

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first paragraph on page 4, under the heading "Summary of the Invention", as follows:

The present invention is designed to overcome the aforementioned difficulties during intubation by providing a disposable, inexpensive, easily used and efficient endotracheal intubation device, designed for ready manipulation of oral cavity soft tissue during placement to minimize the effort of both patient and operator[.], ~~containing~~ The device provides a bright light source and an indirect visualization system composed of either fiberoptic bundles, a digital imaging system or a combination thereof, simultaneous suctioning ability, and an external image viewing mechanism which can be placed at a multiplicity of positions relative to the patient or allow for a multiplicity of locations of the operator relative to the patient that enables an operator to visualize the anatomical structure in front of the end point of the intubation device insertion from any orientation of the practitioner relative to the patient during insertion of the device and/or endotracheal tube of varying size.

Please amend the second paragraph beginning on page 4, as follows:

In one preferred embodiment, an endotracheal intubation device is provided including an optical assembly enclosed by a housing anatomically accommodating to the operator's hand where the optical assembly includes an image conducting system having a curved distal end portion ~~and~~ extending from a first end of the housing, and a proximal end portion ~~and~~ extending from a second end of the housing through ~~an image-viewing~~ a positioning mechanism pivotally ~~attached at a first end of the viewing mechanism~~ to the second end of the housing. The ~~image viewing~~ positioning mechanism has at its ~~second~~ outer end a viewing system wherein the image

conducting system optically communicates with the viewing system through the ~~image-viewing~~ positioning mechanism. The ~~ball joint of the image-viewing~~ positioning mechanism can be manipulated by application of light force applied to the ~~image-viewing mechanism~~ such that a plurality of angular orientations with respect to the housing are achieved. ~~Positioned at the second end of the image-viewing mechanism is a viewing system which optically communicates with the image-conducting system.~~ The viewing system provides for accurate viewing by the practitioner ~~when the practitioner's eye is within a comfortable field of vision of the operator from the viewing port.~~

Please amend the paragraph on page 5 beginning at line 5, as follows:

A scabbard is attached to the housing which is sized to sealably receive a portion of the first end of the housing and the distal end of the image conducting system. The scabbard comprises a curved structure having a terminal ~~edge-surface~~ face and a plurality of spaced conduits extending ~~through the scabbard therethrough.~~ The terminal ~~edge-exhibits~~ face provides a short prolongation [of] at the bottom side of the structure for manipulating and holding the epiglottis away from covering the vocal cords to clear and expose the target anatomical structures for intubation. A first one of the conduits extends longitudinally through the scabbard and houses the image conducting system with the distal end of the conduit optically open end at the terminal ~~edge-surface~~ face of the scabbard, with the terminal ~~surface~~ face of the conduit opening sealed by a ~~final~~ lens. A second one of the conduits extends along an outer surface portion of the scabbard and defines an open ~~serpentine~~ serpentine channel that is sized to removably receive ~~multiple~~ a range of different sizes (diameters) of an endotracheal tube, ready for accurate disposition in the patient. A third one

of the conduits extends longitudinally through the scabbard and provides a suction path for the operator when attached to a vacuum source.

Please amend the last complete paragraph at the bottom of page 5, as follows:

[A] An electrical power source is electrically and a light source are connected [to] with the image conducting system to provide an illuminated area [at] adjacent to the terminal edge surface face of the scabbard and ~~for~~ transmission of images ~~from~~ of the illuminated area to the viewing port located at said proximal end of the image conducting system.

Please amend the last paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 7, as follows:

The present invention provides an endotracheal intubation device or intubator 5 that includes a pivotal ~~viewing~~ positioning mechanism 10 which enables indirect visualization of a patient's upper airway from multiple operator positions relative to the patient orientation. The intubator 5 includes a scabbard 5B and an optical assembly enclosed by a housing 5A anatomically accommodating to the operator's hand [5A]. Scabbard 5B is formed from a hard polymer material formed so as to generally comprise the curved shape of the anatomical contour of the tongue and a similar curvature seen in a conventional intubation blade, e.g., a Macintosh or Miller (straight) blade. Scabbard 5B includes a curved distal end portion 12. An image conducting conduit or passageway 2 extends throughout the length of intubator 5, and opens at the terminal face 13 (FIG. 6) of curved distal end portion 12 of scabbard 5B. An elongate flexible image conducting system conductor 19 is housed in image conducting passageway 2, and extends through the positioning mechanism 10 in ~~communicates communication~~ with a viewing system 11 [of] at the outer end of the positional-viewing positioning mechanism [10] (FIGS. 2, 4 and 5). A second conduit or

passageway 3 extends throughout the length of scabbard 5B in substantially parallel relation to image conducting passageway 2, and also opens at terminal face 13 of curved distal end portion 12. A port 7 is ~~arranged~~ disposed on the lower side of ~~optical~~ housing ~~assembly~~ 5A, in fluid flow communication with second passageway 3. Direct suction may be applied to port 7 so that foreign material and secretions from the patient's throat may be transferred through second passageway 3 thereby eliminating the need for suction catheters or the like. [A] An open-ended serpentine channel 14 formed on the outer curved surface of distal end portion 12 of scabbard 5B provides an endotracheal tube receptacle [14]. As best seen in FIG. 2, the serpentine channel 14 has an undulating or wavy top opening 15 defined by a series of spaced apart inwardly curved portions 16 along its length. ~~Tube receptacle~~ The serpentine channel 14 is sized so as to snugly, but releasably accommodate a range of different sizes or diameters of an endotracheal tube 6 of the type, and range of sizes well known in the art. Such a tube 6 may be prepositioned within tube receptacle 14 ready for endotracheal intubation, as described below. [A] The undulating top opening 15 is serpentiginous as defined by a plurality of the serpentine channel 14 and its spaced-apart[[,]] ~~interdigitated fingers~~ inwardly curved portions 16[[,]] ~~which aid in snugly but releasably engaging and maintaining endotracheal tube 6 within tube receptacle the channel 14 during insertion of scabbard 5B into a patient's mouth and throat.~~

Please amend the last paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 8, as follows:

~~Optical housing assembly 5A includes a positional viewing~~ The positioning mechanism 10 is connected to the housing 5A by means of a pivot mechanism such as a ball joint 17, and [a] the viewing system 11 ~~which~~ is optically connected to the image ~~conducting system~~ conductor 19 contained in image conducting passageway 2. ~~Optical~~ The housing assembly 5A also includes a

battery power supply source 4 electrically connected to the ~~image conducting system 2~~ conductor 19 and to a charge indicator 9. Battery power supply source 4 is electrically connected to an off/on button [18] 8 arranged so as to be easily accessible to an operator. ~~Image conducting system~~ The image conductor 19 ~~comprises~~ may comprise a fiber optic bundle, a digital image conducting system or a combination of both. ~~Image conducting system~~ The image conductor 19 is interconnected to ~~the~~ a conventional light source (not shown) within optical housing assembly 5A, ~~while the~~ and extends through the housing 5A and its distal end terminates at a lens 20 or similar light conditioning or focusing device being sealingly disposed over the open end of optical passageway 2 at terminal face 13 of curved distal end portion 12 of scabbard 5B, or over the free end of image conducting system conductor 19. This arrangement has the added benefit of preventing bodily fluids and the like from entering ~~optical~~ passageway 2 and contaminating ~~image conducting system~~ conductor 19. ~~Image conducting system~~ The proximal end of image conductor 19 extends from through the light source within optical housing assembly 5A, through the positioning mechanism 10, and is optically interconnected with the viewing system 11 which is supported in a viewing port or housing 18 at the outer end of the positional viewing positioning mechanism [10]. The positioning mechanism 10 allows variable positioning of the Positional viewing system 11, mechanism 10 comprises an viewing port 18 disposed at one end by means of pivot mechanism 17, and provides for ease of visualization of the larynx and surrounding structures by the operator.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 11, and substitute the following paragraph:

As stated above, the image conductor 19 interconnected with the viewing system 11 at the outer end of the positioning mechanism 10 may comprise a fiber optic bundle, or a digital image conducting system. In a fiber optic image conducting system, the image viewing means of the viewing system 11 is a conventional eyepiece lens disposed in the viewer port or housing 18 at the outer end of the positioning mechanism. In a digital image conducting system, the image viewing means of the viewing system 11 is a small LCD screen disposed in the viewer port or housing 18, or otherwise attached at the outer end of the positioning mechanism 10. The ball joint 17 of the positioning mechanism 10 has a sufficiently frictional fit for supporting and maintaining the positional viewing system 11 in a desired position and orientation so as to allow for indirect visualization of a patient's airway from a wide range of positions relative to the orientation of the patient's head.

Please amend the last paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 9, as follows:

An intubation tube 6 is positioned within ~~tube receptacle~~ serpentine channel 14 of the scabbard 5B by sliding tube 6 downwardly through the ~~serpentine~~ undulating or wavy top open channel opening 15 ~~formed~~ defined by the ~~interdigitated fingers~~ inwardly curved portions 16 so that it is held releasably in place within the outer, dorsal portion of scabbard 5B. Once this assembly is completed, an intubation procedure may be begun.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 2 of page 10, as follows:

More particularly, and unlike conventional intubation devices, the patient's head need not be manipulated with a face-chin lifting maneuver. Only the lower jaw needs to be somewhat distended, and the mouth open sufficiently to introduce endotracheal intubation device 5. Curved distal end portion 12 of scabbard 5B is then inserted through the mouth into the throat passageway, so as to displace the soft tissue of the tongue and epiglottis, and expose the glottis of the patient. Once in this position, suction may be applied to port 7, so as to draw bodily secretions and fluids away from the glottis and larynx through second passageway 3. Advantageously, this procedure may be visualized observed via positional viewing ~~mechanism 10~~ system 11 by pivoting it so as to position ~~viewing port housing 18 at a location~~ it at an orientation convenient for the person performing the intubation to clearly observe the intubation at a safe distance from the patients mouth and within a comfortable distance between the practitioner's eye and the viewing system 11. It will be understood that positional viewing ~~mechanism 10~~ system 11 may be maneuvered into a plurality of positions, as needed, to provide for the safe and comfortable access by the person performing the intubation and to allow for viewing of the anatomical structures and devices so as to provide control in the intubation process.

Please amend the second paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 10, as follows:

With the patient's larynx in view through viewing ~~port 18~~ system 11, endotracheal tube 6 is maneuvered through the larynx and into the trachea of the patient, all the while being observed by the person performing the intubation.

Please amend the last paragraph at the bottom of page 10, as follows:

Once endotracheal tube 6 has been properly positioned within the trachea, the endotracheal intubation device 5 is removed from the patient's mouth by the operator, while holding tube 6 in place, and sliding scabbard 5B along tube 6 until the scabbard 5B exits the patient's mouth and tube 6 can be removed from the ~~tube-receptacle~~ serpentine channel 14 of the scabbard 5B.

Please amend the last paragraph at the bottom of page 11, as follows:

In addition, an endotracheal intubation device is provided, including [a] an image viewing port system which allows the visualization of the larynx and associated structures, outside the patient's mouth and readily accessible to the operator's field of view. Further, the viewing ~~port~~ system can be oriented at multiple positions about the patient's mouth and head, so as to allow the operator to intubate in tight or narrow spaces often seen in accident scenes when conventional emergency care is presently unable to do so with portable equipment. This is extremely helpful when a victim is trapped inside of a vehicle where they would normally not be able to be intubated.